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Message Text

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43
ACTION SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ABF-01 FSE-00 OES-06 /019 W
---------- 050471
P 041528Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2634

UNCLAS TUNIS 3170

PASS: SMITHSONIAN FOR B. WINGFIELD

E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: OSCI, TS
SUBJ: SMI/SFCP - JOINT EXPEDITION TO ANCIENT CARTHAGE
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

1. CONVERSION DIFFICULTIES FACED BY TWA HAVE COMPLICATED INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR SFCP GRANTEES (SEE TUNIS 1661). ACCORDING TWA/TUNIS, GTR'S RESTRICTED TO DINAR PAYMENT ARE NOT RPT NOT ACCEPTED BY TWA/WASHINGTON BUT ARE ACCEPTED BY TWA/TUNIS FOR TRAVEL WHICH (A) ORIGINATES IN TUNIS AND (B) USES TWA FOR 65 PERCENT OF TOTAL TRAVEL (READ TRANS-ATLANTIC PORTION AS MINIMUM). TRAVEL MUST ALSO CONFORM TO OTHER USG TRAVEL REGULATIONS RE INTER-CHANGE POINTS, U.S. CARRIER USE, ETC.

2. THEREFORE, FOR RETURN TRAVEL OF PUNIC GROUP OF SUBJECT PROJECT NOW IN TUNIS, TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED IN TUNISIAN DINARS ONLY AGAINST GTR'S ISSUED IN TUNIS. THIS NECESSITATES TRANSFER OF ADEQUATE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FUNDS FROM SMIT TO TUNIS. HIGH SEASON HEAVY BOOKINGS MAKE IT ESSENTIAL RESER-VATIONS FOR PUNIC GROUP BE MADE ASAP. UNLESS SMITHSONIAN OR OTHER SOURCE ABLE TO FUND TRAVEL OF PUNIC GROUP IN DOLLARS, REQUEST BY CABLE AUTHORITY AND FISCAL DATA TO ISSUED GTR'S.

3. EMBASSY ALSO CONCERNED AS TO HOW TRAVEL OF LARGE ROMAN DIG TEAM FROM U.S. TO TUNIS IN LATE MAY IS TO BE FINANCED UNDER THE SFCP PROJECT UNLESS DOLLARS ARE AVAILABLE OR AUTHORITY IS GIVEN TO USE FOREIGN AIRLINE WILLING TO
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ACCEPT DINAR PAYMENT WITH PROVISO THAT U.S. CARRIERS WILL

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BE USED TO MAXIMUM EXTENT.

4. SMITHSONIAN PLEASE ADVISE NEWMAN, ASOR OF ABOVE.
KING

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NNN

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Disposition History: n/a
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